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Thousands attend funeral of Turks killed in Germany

CARSAMBA, Turkey (AP) — A German embassy official joined thousands of angry mourners Sunday at the funeral of three Turks who were killed in a firebomb attack on their home in Germany. The marchers chanted "down with Nazis" and "death to murderers" as they followed the flag-draped coffins to the cemetery. Burning German flags were thrown from some houses on the way, the Anatolia News Agency reported. "Germany has not reverted to Nazi Germany, and will never do so," Hans Joerg Haber, the political counselor of the German embassy, said in Turkish at the funeral ceremony. Four Turkish government ministers and several parliamentary deputies also attended the ceremony in this black sea town, the Turkish agency said. "This year will go down in history as a black year," said Akin Gonen, a Turkish state minister and government spokesman. "But the stern reaction of the German people has partly lessened our grief," Mr. Gonen said. Vahide Arslan, 51, her 10-year-old granddaughter, Yeliz Arslan, and her 14-year-old niece, Ayse Yilmaz, a visitor from Turkey, died when neo-Nazis attacked their house last Monday in the northern German town of Moelln.

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Ab parties to peace talks to meet in Jeddah

AMMAN (R) — Arab parties to peace talks in the Middle East will hold a routine coordination meeting in Saudi Arabia this week to chart strategy for the 10th round of negotiations with Israel, a Jordanian official said Sunday. The foreign ministers of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization's political chief will meet the sidelines of an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) ministerial meeting in Jeddah on Monday, he added. The preparatory meeting was originally scheduled for Sunday in Beirut but was postponed because not all participants could attend. The 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks is set to begin on Dec. 7 in Washington. Jordan, Syria and Lebanon say they will attend the 10th round of negotiations that lasted 13 months ago in Madrid. Palestinian negotiators, frustrated by the lack of progress in talks, say they may not take part in the next round.

Alz arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz arrived in Amman Sunday at the head of an Iraqi delegation on his way back to Baghdad after attending the United Nations Security Council last week. The delegation includes Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Hafid and senior foreign ministry officials. Mr. Aziz and the accompanying delegation were received at the Queen Alia International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu Jaber and Iraqi ambassador to Jordan.

Egypt sends envoy to Sudan

CAIRO (R) — A Sudanese envoy delivered a letter from President Omar Al Bashir to President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday and said that Khartoum was back to Muslim fundamentalist rule in Egypt. "There is a keen desire by the Sudanese leadership to improve relations between the two countries," the envoy, Adnan Al Sayed, told reporters after meeting Mr. Mubarak. He has accused Sudan and Iran of financing extremist groups who have attacked foreign interests in Egypt since October. Two countries also dispute ownership of Al Halaib, an oil-rich triangle of border territory. Sayed, replying to questions, denied that fundamentalist militias were trained in Sudan. "We are absolutely illogical for us to be a source of threat to the stability of Egypt. This is absolutely out of question. We will allow anyone in Sudan to threaten Egypt's security," he said. He also denied that Iranian fighters were training Egyptian soldiers in Sudan. "There is not a single Iranian soldier on the Egyptian soil... this is the truth," he said.

Israeli troops kill 10 Palestinians

CUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli troops shot and killed 10 Palestinians in the West Bank on Sunday, Israeli army said. Muhammad al-Hadad, 17, was shot in Hebron after stoning passing Israeli and ignoring soldiers' calls to an army statement said. Palestinian reports said Mr. al-Hadad was shot after stoning Israeli patrol. Throughout the occupied territories Sunday, Palestinians closed businesses and schools in a strike called by Islamic Fundamentalist movement, Hamas.

Expressing solidarity with Palestinians

King demands active U.N. role in peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday demanded that the United Nations become actively involved in the Middle East peace-making process in order to ensure the implementation of its resolutions and the application of international legitimacy. "The U.N. Security Council, which is currently assuming a significant role in a conflict close to the Arab-Israeli struggle, geographically and politically, is barred from assuming an active role towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict," said King Hussein in a message sent to the chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. "Jordan strongly advocates the involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in the peace negotiations," said the King in his message on the eve of the U.N. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. "The King said he firmly believes that the participation of the PLO in the peace-making process will help Palestinians exercise their right in determining their own fate on their own land," said King Hussein. "A year has passed since the start of the peace process at the Madrid Middle East peace conference and yet the Palestinian people continue to suffer under Israeli occupation," the King said.

"We had hoped that the end of the cold war and the rivalry between East and West that lasted for four decades would lead to an end to regional conflicts, including that of the Middle East, and an end to the Palestinian people's sufferings," said the King. The King said it was the desire to end the sufferings of the people of this region that prompted us to welcome the relaxed international atmosphere, hoping that international legitimacy will be respected so as to enhance the idea of coexistence and put an end to the use of force to settle conflicts. In conformity with this concept, Jordan was among the first countries to support the efforts of the United Nations in initiating the peace process, said King Hussein. Furthermore, he said, Jordan has done everything in its power to support the Palestinian people and protect their rights throughout the various stages of the struggle. The King said the Israeli government has not offered any gesture that would reveal its genuine desire towards the fulfillment of the requirements of peace. He said that Israel's delegations to the peace talks did not go to the negotiating table with anything new that could increase optimism about a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. On the contrary, he said "what we are witnessing is continued Israeli insistence on denying the national rights of the Palestinian people." He said Israel's behaviour was



a repeated attempt to disregard international legitimacy represented in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which was the basis for the Madrid conference. "It was Israel which had demanded direct negotiations with the Arabs and this has been achieved, providing a proper mechanism for a political settlement to the conflict," the King said. He said that the slow pace of the peace process can only be interpreted as a tool aimed at achieving further procrastination and loss of time and consequently further delays for the achievement of peace. King Hussein said that the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People provides a reaffirmation of commitment on the part of the United Nations and the world community to work

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OIC urges support for peace talks

JIDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has urged the international community to intensify efforts to salvage the faltering Middle East peace process. "A whole year after its start, the peace process in the Middle East has not achieved any significant progress on the path to a just solution due to continued Israeli intransigence," Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid said in a statement marking solidarity with the Palestinians. Fifteen years ago the U.N. General Assembly designated November 29 of every year as a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. "Despite the continuation of the peace process, the Palestinian people are still experiencing harsh and difficult conditions under the Israeli occupation," the statement said. The deadlock in the peace process, which the OIC and Arab participants blame on Israel's refusal to relinquish war won territories, required intervention of the world community, the statement said. The OIC serves as a political umbrella for the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims. "No just and comprehensive peace could be realised without effectively implementing the resolutions of the international legitimacy and securing total Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem," the statement said. The organisation called for

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Abdul Shafi dismisses Rabin prediction that Palestinian 'entity' will eclipse PLO

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday he hoped Middle East peace negotiations would give the Palestinians in the occupied territories enough self rule to eclipse the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Chief of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks Haider Abdul Shafi dismissed Mr. Rabin's prediction that the PLO and local Palestinians would grow apart. "I think that the PLO enjoys the support of most of the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. This prediction of a break between the two is not realistic," he said. Dr. Abdul Shafi said Mr. Rabin was focusing on the PLO and later negotiations to obscure that Israel was trying to keep full control over the occupied land during supposed autonomy. "In the interim period, Mr. Rabin wants Israel to have a free hand to preempt the situation in the occupied territories," he said. "They can use this time to move in more Jewish settlers, changing the entire situation." Since it occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war, Israel has moved 270,000 Jews into the occupied lands and the Arab section of Jerusalem, which it annexed into its capital. Mr. Rabin said that although he was opposed to a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he did not rule out the possibility of "other possibilities" which he

reached for the establishment of some kind of Palestinian entity, not necessarily a state... there are other solutions," Mr. Rabin told a meeting of Israeli newspaper editors. Mr. Rabin spoke on the anniversary of the 1947 U.N. partition resolution that called for creating Jewish and Arab states in Palestine. He urged Palestinians to accept Israel's offer of limited autonomy in the occupied territories. Mr. Rabin's even mentioning the possibility of a Palestinian state went far beyond his predecessor, right winger Yitzhak Shamir. Mr. Rabin also has cut back the Shamir government's ambitious plan for Jewish settlement to push along peace negotiations. Israel's offer of interim autonomy would be followed by negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories. Palestinian negotiators have been pushing to ensure that the autonomy will lead to their having full rights. Mr. Rabin predicted that during the interim period, a proposed Palestinian self-governing council would drive a wedge between the PLO and the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied lands. "The council will have power over Palestinians with a budget," he said. "The PLO in Tunis... will remain without power, without strength, the local power will become the principle power." Meanwhile, Palestinian negotiators, deeply frustrated over lack of progress at the peace talks, say they may not take part in the next round of negotiations.

"What Israel offered at the negotiating table is unacceptable," Mr. Abdul Shafi told a news conference in the occupied Gaza Strip Saturday. He and others said the talks were deadlocked over Israel's latest proposals to give them only partial control of occupied land under a plan for limited self-rule. "We are not thinking of withdrawing from negotiations. But we may suspend the next round," Zakariya Al Agha, a delegate from Gaza, said. The next round of Arab-Israeli talks, the eighth since the peace process was launched in Madrid just over a year ago, is due to open in Washington on Dec. 7. Mr. Abdul Shafi said the Israelis revealed their plan in informal meetings with Palestinians during the last round of negotiations there. To break the deadlock, Palestinians want Israel to declare all land Israel seized in the 1967 war is "occupied territory" which belongs to the Arabs. Nervous that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton will be more sympathetic to Israel than his predecessor George Bush, the Palestinians demanded Europe play a bigger role in the talks. Israel has sought to keep Europe at a distance, fearing it would favour the Arab side. "Europe has a historical link with the area more than America," Mr. Abdul Shafi said. He added that a surge of Neo-Nazism in Europe would hurt Palestinians. "Some (Israeli) parties are using it against our cause."

Second Somali warlord backs proposal to send U.S. troops

MOGADISHU (AP) — Both of the major warlords who control Mogadishu now welcome a proposal to send 30,000 American troops to Somalia to help relief workers fight the nation's famine. Ali Mahdi Mohammad, who controls northern Mogadishu, approved the plan Saturday, one day after his arch enemy, the warlord who controls southern Mogadishu, gave it his blessing. Their cooperation could reduce the risks the soldiers face if they occupy the capital's ports to guard incoming aid and stop looters from hijacking relief trucks going to towns where hundreds starve to death each day. But both warlords may be motivated more by a desire to take control of the nation with U.S. help than to end the famine and chaos. American troops could end up facing as much opposition as 500 U.N. soldiers do now.

Since former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted nearly two years ago, Ali Mahdi's rivalry with Gen. Mohamed Farah Aidid has destroyed central authority and helped to turn a severe drought into a catastrophe famine that has killed at least 300,000 and left 2 million on the verge of starvation. Both warlords have allowed the plunder of thousands of tonnes of donated food to guarantee the loyalty of troops, and U.N. attempts to deploy the first 500 of a planned 3,500 troops to guard aid have been severely hobbled. Washington on Wednesday offered to send 30,000 American troops under a U.S. commander or as part of a larger U.N. force. In Kennebunkport, Maine, U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said Saturday the proposal was still being discussed with the U.N. and U.S. allies. "We're going to see what we can do to help," Mr. Scowcroft said after briefing President George Bush.

However, Ali Mahdi and Mr. Aidid appear to be misreading Washington's intent to end the lawlessness for which they are largely responsible and protect aid shipments. They seem to have misconstrued it as support for

their factions in Somalia's civil war. "I was so happy to hear that the U.S. has decided to save the soul of the Somali people," Ali Mahdi said in an interview. "I would be very happy to welcome the U.S. forces, because I am sure they will help us to distribute food and make Somalia a secure place to live again," he said. The American troops should come immediately, assist the relief agencies, and help clans hold a peace conference and form a new government, he said. If necessary, Ali Mahdi said, the U.S. soldiers should also be willing to fight Mr. Aidid, who controls southern Mogadishu. The United Nations is expected to consider the American proposal this week. A U.N. task force on Somalia was meeting in New York over the weekend to discuss the American offer and other plans to deliver humanitarian aid. Ali Mahdi criticised the U.N.'s 500 Pakistani soldiers, who took months to reach Somalia, spent several more months negotiating with clan warlords and elders and eventually took over Mogadishu's airport, but not its port. For more than a week, clansmen have been firing shells from the shore of northern Mogadishu to prevent ships carrying food and medicine from docking and unloading at the port, which remains under Mr. Aidid's control. Ali Mahdi denied that his men had opened fire on the ships, but he has been frustrated by the fact that the airport and port are both in Mr. Aidid's part of the city. Consequently, it is often difficult for people in northern Mogadishu to get a fair share of the donated food and medicine. U.S. intervention could indirectly help him in his battle with Mr. Aidid. When Mr. Aidid held a news conference Friday to welcome the U.S. proposal, he criticised the United Nations for its "fiscal failure" in Somalia, even though he has been the main obstacle to the U.N. soldier's efforts. He, too, seemed to believe that U.S. troops would be willing to help his clan alliance to take over Somalia.



PRINCE ABDULLAH ATTENDS FESTIVAL ON BEHALF OF KING: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein (second from right) Sunday deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in attending the Ministry of Education's cultural and artistic festival, held at the Royal Cultural Centre to mark the King's Birthday. The festival was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (second from left), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouran Al Hindawi (right) and Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi (left). Also attending were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zaid, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat and other officials (Petra photo)

French premier warns farmers not 'to play with fire'

PARIS (AP) — Reacting to farmer violence against a U.S.-European pact to cut their subsidies, Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy says farmers shouldn't "play with fire" that could end up burning French exports. Meanwhile, France's industry and foreign trade minister continued Sunday that the accord could be redrawn under his government's threat to veto it. In Strasbourg, seat of the European community's parliament, officials prepared to deploy 2,000 police, alerted hospitals and removed European Community (EC) and U.S.-related street signs ahead of a protest expected to draw 50,000 farmers on Tuesday. "You have everything to lose and nothing to win," Mr. Berégovoy told French farmers — the EC's biggest agricultural exporters in an interview published and broadcast Sunday. "When the protests degenerate into violence, and I strongly condemn them, the images spread around the world do a disservice to our agricultural products and to France," he said. Farmers have clashed with police near the U.S. embassy and other government buildings, blocked highways, occupied a Coca Cola plant and dumped manure and crops outside city halls. "I tell them: don't play with fire," Mr. Berégovoy said in an interview with the daily "Der-

nieres Nouvelles d'Alsace" and on Judaica, a Jewish radio station in Strasbourg. In the latest anti-U.S. violence, royalist militants supporting farmers burned an American flag and set off firecrackers and smoke bombs outside a TWA office on the Champs Elysees in Paris on Saturday. They sprayed "U.S. go home" and splattered blue paint on the building wall. A poll published Saturday indicates most French voters support a veto of the accord reached Nov. 21 after Washington threatened to slap heavy tariffs on white wine and grain products. Mr. Berégovoy has threatened a veto unless concessions are made in world trade talks that resumed in Geneva last week. The agreement removed a key stumbling block to the talks, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that could lead to hundreds of billions of dollars in global commerce by dismantling trade barriers. French industry and foreign trade minister said Sunday it "isn't unrealistic that the EC and United States could renegotiate the farm accord after a GATT treaty is reached. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, in a French television interview, said he hopes France won't have to exercise the veto power he likened to "a nuclear weapon although you have it, you must

try not to use it." Mr. Strauss-Kahn criticised the U.S. for wanting the EC to open up its markets while at the same time it wants to shield certain sectors from foreign competition. He cited the example of French insurance company Assurances Generales de France, which he said has been kept out of New

Germany would reject Security Council seat

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Sunday that Germany could not live up to its international duties yet and would turn down a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council if offered today. Mr. Kohl said Germany had become the strongest country in Europe with 80 million people after unification two years ago. "And everyone in the world expects that the Germans will now assume their role," the chancellor said in an interview with German radio, Deutschlandfunk. But he said Bonn's post-war constitution for now barred Germany from shouldering an international role and send troops on U.N. missions to trouble spots outside NATO territory. Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told the U.N. General Assembly in September that Germany would not take the initiative, but would seek a permanent seat if a chance in the council's composition was considered. Mr. Kohl said a German "was an important discussion" in New York, but added: "If the

offer came today we would not be in a position to accept this role, because we cannot live up to our full membership. He said it was unacceptable for Germany that it had to withdraw the destroyer Hamburg from a U.N.-mandated force monitoring the embargo in the Adriatic after the Security Council decided ships sailing for Yugoslavia could be stopped and searched earlier this month. "But it puts a spotlight on the psychological situation we have here in Germany," he said. Mr. Kohl's coalition wants German troops to be able to take part in U.N. peace-keeping missions and eventually fight alongside its allies on missions like the U.S.-led Gulf war. But the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) are denying him the two-third majority he needs to amend the constitution, written to contain German military might after the war. The SPD recently decided to sanction German troops taking

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UAE hopeful Qatar would attend summit

MANAMA (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), host of next month's Gulf summit, is optimistic that Qatar will attend the top-level meeting, despite its border feud with key participant Saudi Arabia, the newspaper Al Hayat reported Sunday. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, told the newspaper that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting on Dec. 21 will provide an ideal forum "for raising the Saudi-Qatari differences in an atmosphere of brotherly dialogue and understanding to reach a settlement acceptable to both" countries. The UAE is engaged in quiet diplomacy to ensure the participation of Qatar, which has boycotted GCC ministerial meetings in recent weeks to protest failure to resolve its feud with Saudi Arabia. Qatar also has withdrawn a 200 strong contingent from a joint GCC force based in Saudi Arabia. The Qatari moves have stirred speculation it might be considering a withdrawal from the GCC.

an economic and security alliance which also groups Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. But Sheikh Hamdan said the 12-year-old grouping "cannot be shaken by any difference," according to Al Hayat. Sheikh Hamdan did not explain the reason for his "optimism" about Qatar's participation in the annual GCC summit. He said the UAE is "keenly interested in the attendance of the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani at the summit." The Qatari-Saudi feud flared Sept. 30 when two people were killed in a clash near the frontier. Qatar accused Saudi soldiers of firing at a border post and demanded renegotiating the frontier. The Saudis denied the Qatari accusation and said the clash was between desert bedouins. The dispute is one of the series of border problems that have plagued the region since Britain ended its domination of the Gulf in the 1970s, leaving ill-defined

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Algeria warns of freedom curbs in anti-FIS war

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria declared total war on Islamic fundamentalists. The prime minister warned the nation that normal freedoms might be temporarily curbed even more next month.

Announcing new measures in a televised statement and saying more might be imposed from next Friday, Belaid Abdesselam declared: "The state and its forces must go on the attack."

He said Saturday night he had ordered the dissolution of what he called the "spider web" of movements supporting the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

These included local and regional authorities, companies, charitable and cultural groups, and labour movements controlled by Muslim fundamentalists.

Algeria is already under a 12-month state of emergency, imposed last February after the authorities scrapped a general election in which the FIS had seized a landslide lead.

The emergency decree crushed widespread unrest which greeted the poll cancellation but extremists, who officials say are linked to the FIS, have since killed at least 170 members of the security forces in ambushes.

FIS supporters took control of 853 areas in the North African country — more than half the town halls, and 32 of the 48 regional authorities — in elections in June 1990, the first since independence for Algeria's 26 million people.

Early this year, the Interior Ministry abolished more than 400 local assemblies, drafting in appointees to run them. At least one such official has been shot and wounded and others have received death threats.

"Now it has become clear that the operations of sabotage and terrorism are truly taking place under the banner of the FIS whose aim is to destroy the Algerian state and set up a regime serving interests unconnected with the people's interests," the prime minister said.

"We must destroy the system of organisations on which the terrorists are supported."

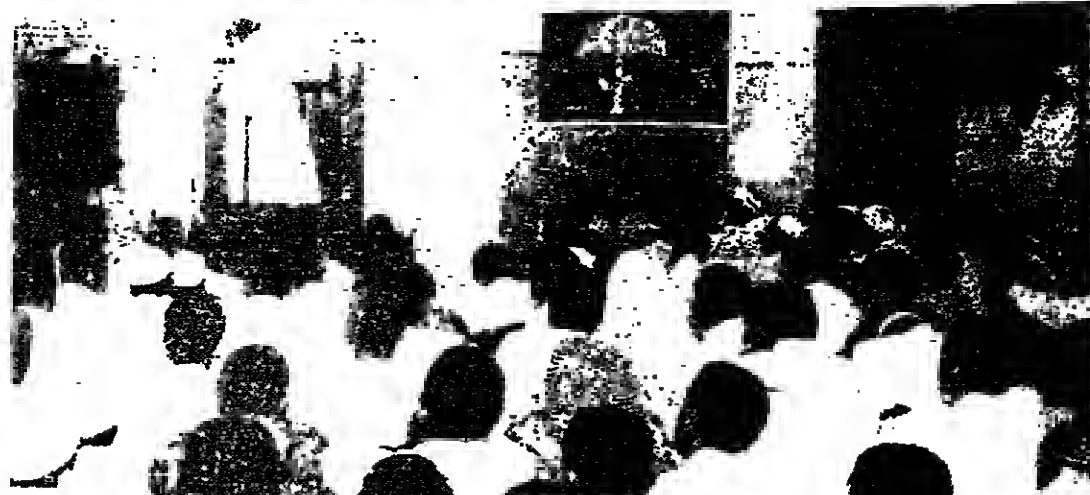
Mr. Abdesselam set Dec. 4 as a deadline for other, possible unspecified security steps around the capital. A two-month partial amnesty under a new anti-terrorist law expires on that day.

Most killings of police and para-military gendarmes occur within a 100 kilometres radius of Algiers or in its overcrowded areas of high unemployment and support for the FIS.

"These security decisions may be uncomfortable for citizens or limit their liberties. The decisions are necessary to pursue the (counter-terrorist) action so as not to permit these people any chance to catch their breath," he said.

Security is already tight, with road blocks, patrols, house searches and heavily-armed security forces in the main streets. Political activity is effectively frozen and demonstrations and meetings tightly controlled.

Some Algerians speculated that new steps might include a return to the night curfew seen during previous unrest.



Followers of the Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) listen to the Friday sermon of the Imam of Imbaba (AFP photo)

Egypt militants, police play cat-and-mouse

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt's Muslim militants live a life on the run, dodging police raids on squalid slum apartments and risking arrest every time they gather at a mosque for prayers and anti-government preaching.

The militants have switched tactics in their war against authority, attacking foreign tourists as a more effective way of hurting the government than killing policemen or Christians. Now security forces are fighting back.

"I spend my days roaming the streets. I never stay in one place for too long. If I do, I will be arrested immediately. Government informants are everywhere," said Sheikh Jaber, a young leader of Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (The Islamic Group) in the Cairo slum of Imbaba.

Asraf, a musician-turned-militant, said: "At night, we sleep in a deserted place, in cars, on the road, in carriages, anywhere but not at home."

The police raids can come any time. After 2 a.m. is favoured — night is the only time police must search the narrow, dusty alleyways of Imbaba without having to fight through swarms of people.

Security troops descended on a neighbourhood in trucks or armoured personnel carriers. Patrols leave their vehicles and advance on foot — half the men move forward, the others backward to cover all angles.

Their eyes are fixed on the balconies of the crudely-built concrete tenement blocks and their fingers grip the triggers of their rifles. They have tear gas grenades ready to toss at the first hint of resistance.

The militants protect themselves by constantly moving

around — and by using networks of children to watch police movements and carry warnings.

"There is always trouble here," a woman named Wafa said. "When the police forces come in, we don't sleep. They come running through the streets. If anyone puts his head out from a window or balcony they shout at him to go inside," she added.

"They are very tense. Sometimes they curse and threaten to shoot at onlookers."

Sheikh Jaber, sacked from his work at a car spare parts company for being a militant, dubbed the security patrols "the visitors of the night."

"They're scared to come during the day so they raid at night. They storm our houses, wake up our women and children and harass them," he said. "They threaten and terrify them to know our whereabouts but even our families don't know where we sleep."

The best place to catch suspects is outside their mosques after their regular weekly prayer and discussion meeting.

Residents said one Islamic group mosque on longer opened for the traditional dawn prayers because police had raided it so often.

In Imbaba, posters of militants killed in clashes with police are plastered on walls next to graffiti calling for revenge. The Islamic Group says security forces have shot dead 100 of its members and arrested more than 2,000 since 1990.

Thousands of Kurds d maimed by Iraqi mine

NICOSIA (AP) — Millions of land mines indiscriminately planted by Iraqi troops in violation of international law have killed or maimed thousands of Kurdish civilians, the Middle East Watch human rights group said Sunday.

The New York-based group said in a report that the mines, mostly Italian-made, also have made large areas of farmland in northern Iraq unusable or highly dangerous and hindered the rebuilding of destroyed villages in the Kurdistan region.

"It is a reasonable conclusion that the Iraqi army laid and abandoned these millions of mines to make large areas of Kurdistan unusable for all time," Middle East Watch said.

There was no immediate reaction to the report from Baghdad.

The report, titled "Hidden death," was based on a survey of 15 minefields in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk and Irbil provinces carried out by a Middle East Watch consultant, Rae McGrath.

Middle East Watch said the manufacture of the mines, especially Italy's Valsella Meccanotecnica SPA of Brescia, sold them to Iraq in vast numbers during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, despite an international arms embargo.

"The devastation that they caused is attributable, in part, to Italy's careless and venal approach to the export of land mines," the report said.

Middle East Watch urged the European Community (EC) to "take a moral lead" and consider a ban on manufacturing, selling or using anti-personnel mines by its member states.

The U.S. Congress recently imposed a one year moratorium on the transfer of American-made land mines.

The human rights group recommended that the hundreds of Kurdistan minefields, many booby trapped to hamper clearance, be identified with warning signs in the local languages posted to prevent people straying into them.

The organisation said the mines were cleared by the Iraqi government of "major donor to such because Rome has 'responsibility' to help."

The mine-laying by the Iraqi government, Kurds from hundreds on the Iranian border during the war with Iran in a scorched-earth campaign against the rebel millions of mines in the 1990-91.

After the Kurds set up a north anti-government in March 1991, Kurdish army moving back to many of which had been by minefields.

Middle East Watch said the mines were a "vicious cycle of the need for strategy."

In just five of the Mr. McGrath surveys, a mostly refugee Iraqi army — were in months, the report said.

In just one hospital of Sulaymaniyah, 14 wounded by land treated over a similar report said. Of these limbs amputated.

In the Mawat region more than 100 people were mine explosions in the lowing the March 19 uprising, Middle East Watch said.

The group said 122 week were still being wounded by mines in Although some of are anti-tank weapons were anti-personnel.

In some cases, row were linked to one taking them extremely defuse and much damage, the report said.

French humourist tries 'cartoon diplomacy'

AMMAN (R) — France's funniest cartoonist is trying to show Middle East leaders how to draw peace after 20 years of poking fun at them in the newspaper Le Monde.

An encounter with Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat 18 months ago launched him on a one-man mission of "cartoon diplomacy."

Last week, Plantu took his cartoon campaign for Arab-Israeli reconciliation to Israel and Jordan, in the press corps accompanying President Francois Mitterrand to the Middle East.

He persuaded Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to sign a cartoon of the Israeli and Palestinian flags separated by a dotted-line border — which Arafat had drawn.

Mr. Peres also put his signature next to Mr. Arafat's on a Plantu drawing of an Israeli and a Palestinian tugging on the same pen to sign documents marked "mutual recognition."

And the cartoonist won guarded endorsements from His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Mitterrand.

"It is easier to say it with images than with words," Plantu said in an interview on Mr. Mitterrand's flight from Israel to Jordan.

"Politicians, with their wooden language, are incapable of saying things straight out. Arafat never says 'I recognise Israel.' The Israelis never say 'we recognise the PLO'."

It began when Mr. Arafat heard in late 1990 that Plantu was in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters, for a cartoon exhibition and asked through the French embassy to meet him.

In his cloak-and-dagger style, the PLO chief sent a car in the middle of the night to fetch the startled cartoonist.

The conversation was not all plain sailing at a heavily guarded villa near Tunis Airport but Mr. Arafat agreed to a televised interview and drawing session six months later.

Mr. Arafat rebuked Plantu for cartoons criticising him over Palestinian attacks on civilians and hijackings, and associating him with dictators such as late Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

"After I got Arafat's signature on the drawings, I had the idea of getting Israeli leaders to sign," Plantu said.

A first attempt failed when headline Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir visited Paris last

year.

But after the more conciliatory Labour Party of Yitzhak Rabin won Israel's June general election, Plantu decided it was time to try again. During Mr. Mitterrand's trip to Israel, Mr. Peres agreed to a televised interview and drawing session.

He refused to sign one drawing on which Mr. Arafat had written "two states."

And, as he signed Mr. Arafat's drawing with two flags, he said: "This is too clear. I would have preferred something more ambiguous."

Once the deed was done, he commented to Mr. Mitterrand: "On paper, it's easy."

In Amman Mr. Plantu showed King Hussein and Mr. Mitterrand a cartoon he had drawn for the weekend edition of Le Monde. It depicted the French leader as a waiter with Mr. Arafat, the King and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin sitting at separate tables.

"I'm happy to take the orders but you three will have to do the cooking," Mr. Mitterrand says in the caption.

King Hussein grinned and said: "I wouldn't have put it that way." Mr. Mitterrand quipped: "We haven't even got to the hors d'oeuvres yet but I hope we will reach the dessert."

Kuwaiti rulers bend to strong new parliament

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

KUWAIT — The Kuwaiti government, after six years of ruling in splendid isolation, is learning fast how to live with an aggressive parliament dominated by its critics.

And all the signs are that the ruling Sabah family, far from

seeking to thwart the newly-elected assembly, is willing to cooperate and even share with it the burden of government.

The relationship is complicated.

On the one side, an hereditary monarchy with wide powers, immense wealth and a track record of closing down parliaments whenever they become too unruly and meddling.

On the other side, a mixed bag of noisy liberals, businessmen, tribal leaders and Muslim fundamentalists, with a popular mandate to ask potentially embarrassing questions.

But the return of parliamentary life has come like a blast of fresh air to the stifling political atmosphere in the Arabian Peninsula.

Kuwaitis boast that when it comes to democracy they are streets ahead of all their neighbours.

"By any standards it is remarkable, a quantum leap towards popular participation," said Abdullah Alshayefi, assistant professor of political science at Kuwait University.

"There's a tremendous sense of relief and well-being," said a western diplomat. "Even the government feels that way."

The Kuwait Pro-Democracy Committee in a generally optimistic report on the elections in early October, said: "Kuwait's political system seems, for the moment at least, to have crossed a historical milestone."

The elections, encouraged by the West after liberating the emirate from Iraq in last year's Gulf war, produced what would be an anomaly in any country — a largely unelected cabinet which does not even have a majority in the elected parliament.

To complicate the relationship, the prime minister, Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, gave ministerial portfolios to six elected members of parliament, all of them independent politicians who owe nothing to previous governments.

Analysts say this arrangement has put parliament in the driving seat as Kuwait grapples with the economic and social consequences of Iraq's August 1990 conquest and seven months of occupation.

"The government is on the defensive," said Mr. Alshayefi. "Its power has been sharply reduced."

In such an atmosphere of confrontation, Sabah family seems to the light," he added.

"If they cross some investigate the role of prince during the invasion, there could be don't think they're going said Mr. Saadoun, a forceful parliamentarian Ahmad Saadoun.

The speaker, who at the 1985 assembly, is the relationship. Since opened on Oct. 20 he have had regular contact with the emir, Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah.

"Cooperation is the said the Western diplomat. At the back of every are the effects of a broad democratic experience have on Kuwait's inside world, special Western countries depends for its defence.

"Dissolution of parliament, very remote. Kuwait under the microscope a feels it owes its survival," said Mr. Alshayefi. "It would be politics for the ruling family to parliament. There's too stake," he added.

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فَكَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Home News

Parliament's last session

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein will open the 11th Parliament's last ordinary session on Sunday. This will be followed by a session of the Upper House to elect the President of the House of Representatives.

The King's official statement said that the agenda of the session includes the presentation of a Royal Decree on the 11th anniversary of the King's accession to the throne, the presentation of the 1992-1993 budget, and the election of the President of the House of Representatives.

The King will also appoint a new Speaker of the House of Representatives. The King's statement said that the session will be the last of the 11th Parliament.

The King's statement also said that the session will be the last of the 11th Parliament.

949 telephones disconnected

AMMAN (J.T.) — Telecommunications centres around the country were congested Saturday morning with citizens calling to pay their bills and settle telephone disputes.

The congestion was caused by the fact that the telecommunications companies had disconnected 949 telephones for non-payment of bills.

The telecommunications companies said that they had disconnected the telephones because the subscribers had not paid their bills for several months.

The telecommunications companies said that they had disconnected the telephones to encourage subscribers to pay their bills.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Fattah, Lina Fattah and Mohammad Mohraddin at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)

Photography exhibition entitled "Characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea" at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition by renowned Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.

Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Hameed Chantout at Baladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Salwan Abbas and Hassan Eid Alwan at Alia Art Gallery.

Islamists sweep the board in Karak

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nine members of the Islamic-backed Karak list won seats on the eleven member Karak municipal council Sunday morning after polling hours were extended because of a low voter turnout.

A group of unaligned candidates, who represented mostly tribal interests but had the support of Islamist groups, took 9 of the 11 seats in what is widely believed to be a victory for the Islamist groups that had been lobbying behind the scenes.

Tribal and pan-Arab politics have traditionally had a strong foothold in the Karak district. While groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood had not fielded candidates, they supported the Karak list and were known to have nominated at least five of the candidates on the list.

Islamists have traditionally played a back stage role in Karak politics but have never been completely absent. Sunday's election results, which were announced at 4:30 in the morning, indicate that Islamists have not lost the influence gained during the legislative elections in 1989. But while the Islamists were not losers Sunday, neither was tribal politics. The results indicated that many voters had cast their ballots along tribal lines.

The powerful Muaita clan had a candidate on each of the two lists in the running. Both candidates, Nawaf Aghawat Muaita of the Karak list and Akef Muaita of the Solidarity list were elected. The same thing happened with the Ja'afre clan, where Ma'uf Habashneh Ja'afre of the Karak list was elected and Madallah Ja'afre of the Solidarity list also won a seat on the council.

Premier attend celebrations in Taybeh

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Shari Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday attended belated celebrations held in Taybeh sub-district in Irbid Governorate, to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. Citizens carried pictures of the King along with flags and banners pledging allegiance and loyalty to the Hashemite dynasty.

Taybeh District Governor Youssef Talafah addressed the celebration, reaffirming the citizen's loyalty to King Hussein, and praising the achievements Jordan has attained under his wise leadership. He said that Jordan has won a unique status in the world and has advanced confidently along the path of democracy.

ADC officials assess Clinton administration

By Ghadah M.N. Mahmood
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former U.S. Senator James Abu Rizk, founder and chairman of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Community (ADC), and Dr. Albert Mokhaiber, ADC President, met with reporters in Amman last Saturday during a stopover on their way to the Gulf region. Senator Abu Rizk and Dr. Mokhaiber discussed several issues on the ADC's agenda in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Abu Rizk told reporters that ADC's role in lessening the influence of pro-Israeli lobbies in the U.S. is an important one. In the past small Arab-American organisations have not been taken seriously by the U.S. administrations. Their requests to meet with the American president and White House officials have been nothing more than "photo sessions," he said. But the ADC, as the largest Arab-American organisation in the U.S., has been able to make demands.

In response to a question on what he thought the Clinton administration's policy would be towards the Middle East, Senator Abu Rizk said that it was too early to tell. Although Bill Clinton had made several pro-Israeli statements during his campaign, after his election he has indicated that he would like to see the peace talks continue.

Mr. Abu Rizk also commented that one must not take everything that is said during election campaigns seriously. "Candidates want to be elected and will make statements which will give them the support they need for election. What the President-elect does after he is in office is what counts."

Although most Arabs were in favour of President Bush's re-election, Mr. Abu Rizk commented on this was that Mr. Bush's policies in the Middle East were not supportive of Arab causes. Mr. Abu Rizk reminded reporters of Mr. Bush's detrimental actions in the Middle East which included the military attack on Iraq and the continued starvation of the Iraqi people. "We have a new opportunity with Clinton to change the U.S.'s foreign policy in the Middle East," he stated.

Cabinet approves fiscal budget

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Ministers has approved the 1993 fiscal budget which forecast domestic revenues at JD 1,125 million and government expenditure at JD 1,328 million. But for the first time in Jordan's financial history, the budget shows that all current expenses are covered by domestic revenues, leaving a surplus to cover nearly 40 per cent of the total capital expenditure.

One of Jordan's prominent economists Dr. Fahed Fanek told the Jordan Times that thanks to the present government's economic performance throughout 1992, this bonus materialised during 1992 although it was not expected when the year's fiscal budget was prepared and endorsed late last year.

Dr. Fanek said that the government has achieved the first step towards attaining self-sufficiency which means that in five years' time capital as well as current expenses would be covered by domestic revenues without any need to rely on foreign or domestic loans or grants.

This bonus could be attributed to the government's adherence to the economic reforms plan that such achievement was made possible, said Dr. Fanek.

According to an official statement following the Council of Ministers meeting Saturday evening domestic revenues in 1993 are expected to reach JD 1,125 million, registering an increase of 27 per cent over the 1992 budget.

The statement forecast the government's total expenditure in 1993 to reach JD 1,328 million, with a 4.6 per cent increase over the 1992 figures.

It also pointed out that current expenditure in 1993 register five per cent over the 1992 figures while capital expenditure is expected to reach JD 340 million, registering an increase of three per cent over the 1992 figures.

According to the statement priority in the current and capital expenditure was given to the following:

1. Provision of basic services to the public, particularly health and education.
2. Increasing the capital of the National Aid Fund (NAF) from JD 8 to JD 15 million so as to provide for more needy people and reduce poverty in Jordan.
3. Priority will be given to income-generating projects which employ the largest number of workers. It ruled out further finances for government buildings, new roads and others unless foreign financial resources were made available.
4. Special priority was given to sustaining government investment projects and improving public administration services.
5. Ample provisions were made to finance development in basic infrastructure that caters to socio-economic development in the 1990s.

Dr. Fanek said that the government can always resort to domestic and foreign sources for loans to cover the deficit in the fiscal budget, but he said grants are also expected to come to Jordan from various sources during 1993. He said that the draft budget has now to go before parliament for debate and endorsement in the ordinary session opening Tuesday.

Police investigate suicide of Naour mayor

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police investigations were underway Sunday at Naour, 20 kilometres south-west of Amman following the death of the town's mayor Jamil Sawaeer Saturday, in what is being considered a suicide case.

Press reports had said that the 55-year-old mayor had shot himself in the head and was dead upon his arrival at hospital.

Police sources said Mr. Sawaeer had gone to his office for work Saturday morning only to leave for home after an hour's work where he shot himself leaving no clue as to the reasons for his suicide.

Press reports quoted the deceased's wife as saying that she had heard the shot in the first floor of her home in Naour and rushing upstairs she found her husband in a pool of blood while his hand was still holding a gun.

Officers from the Naour police station who arrived at the scene carried the man to a nearby hospital but it was too late said the reports no other police comments about the incident were released Sunday while investigations were continuing to unravel the mystery of the mayor's death.

Press reports said that the mayor had recently won the majority votes in a municipal election and was reinstated mayor 10 days before his untimely death.



INSPECTING THE TROOPS: Public Security Department Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuhaid Sunday attended the graduation of the 29th batch of policemen, who completed a six-month training course at Princess Basma Institute. He stressed the PSD's support and special attention to the policewomen, saying that the increased presence of policewomen demonstrates the growing awareness amongst Jordanian women on the important role they can play in the police service. He praised the Princess Basma Institute in preparing policewomen cadres and also lauded the distinguished levels of performance demonstrated by the graduating policewomen.

Jordan Educational Company towards the future

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The Jordan Educational Company decided to concentrate on office equipment and mechanisation and began introducing "high tech" systems to a group of select organisations. It continued to offer its meticulous service to its clientele, becoming the uncontested leader in its field.

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- c. Prepare design report.
- d. Prepare final design.
- e. Provide services during tender Evaluation.
- f. Provide supervision services during construction.

It will not be acceptable for any joint venture to submit, or to participate in more than one application, and any application submitted in violation of this rule will be rejected.

Prequalification questionnaire and additional information may be obtained from Aqaba Railway Corporation: main office in Ma'an or Amman office. The complete questionnaire (in English) and any additional information should be submitted not later than 30 days after the publication of this notice to:

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Aqaba Railway Corporation
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Ma'an, Jordan
Fax: Tel: Ma'an 41861
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M. Krishan
Director General

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Engage people in quest for peace

THE PALESTINE Liberation Organisation's recent call for the appointment of a European "high commissioner" to the Arab-Israeli peace talks reflects the growing anxiety among the Palestinians and the other Arab parties that the Clinton administration may weaken Washington's resolve to forcefully and effectively broker a settlement. This call for a permanent and effective role for Europe in the ongoing peace process comes as a result of increased Arab concerns that without additional sponsorship from the EC, in order to fill the suspected vacuum that may emerge after President Clinton takes office next January, the talks might become deadlocked.

French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel and Jordan that ended Saturday spurred hopes that Paris and other European capitals are increasingly contemplating a more effective role for Europe in the talks. There is no doubt that Europe plays a pivotal role in the continuing efforts to establish peace and stability in the Middle East. There is also no doubt that the U.S. will continue to exercise considerable clout in the course of the peace process, no matter who is at the helm at the White House.

The Arab contention, however, that only if Western Europe joined the peace process, the prospects of achieving just and permanent peace with Israel could dramatically increase, calls for reexamination. There is really no sense or reason to entertain illusions about the ability of outside intervention alone to make the quest for an honourable peace more attainable. This Arab stance has plagued Arab tactics for the past five or six decades, with no tangible result to show for it.

The bottom line is that Israel is only amenable to a limited extent of pressure. It is also axiomatic that the willingness or even ability of the West to exercise pressure on Israel is limited as well. This dependence on the outside world to come to the rescue of the peace talks is therefore self-defeating. The Arabs have plenty of negotiating cards in their hands to play with. Reliance on the collective bargaining positions of Arabs and Palestinians could be a more functional and useful strategy than reliance on Europe or the U.S. for that matter.

Only by engaging the Israeli people in the negotiating process and by taking bold and imaginative steps in that direction would there be hope to amend existing Israeli negotiating tactics. The Arab World is still labouring under the false illusion that engaging the Israeli government alone is all that it takes to extricate a just peace from Israel. The Israeli people can place more effective pressure on their government than do Americans or Europeans. Therefore it is the Israeli people that we should call on to alter the thinking of some of their leaders. The last elections in Israel have shown that the Israelis are shifting their position in favour of peace. This trend should be encouraged and enhanced.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday said that the Arabs have not lost hope in Europe and continue to bank on the European Community nations to help bring peace to the Middle East. Despite its stand during the Gulf crisis, we continue to regard France as a strong nation, capable of throwing off the American hegemony and embarking on a meaningful step to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about peace to the region, said the daily. Commenting on the successful visit to Jordan by President Mitterrand, the paper said that France and Jordan have now taken steps that go beyond the line of mere friendship to deeper limits and much closer ties than ever before. It was perhaps Charles de Gaulle who took the first step towards closer ties with the Arab World, said the paper, but it was King Hussein, among the Arab leaders, who worked hard towards winning over Europe in general and France in particular and ensuring Europe's support for the rights of the Arab people in occupied Palestine, continued the daily. The Arabs still believe that France can and ought to play a more meaningful role in the peace process because of its proximity to the Arab World and in view of its long-standing ties with the Arab Nation, added the daily. Jordan looks to France as a great nation, free of America's hegemony in the post cold war era, and hopes that it will help reestablish peace and security based on justice, said the paper. France, along with its European partners, possesses a rich background of culture, morals, ideology and the means for progress and development which the Arabs need for their future, it said. The paper said it is hoped that the Europeans, who chose to support the United States in its Gulf war, will now take another view and rid themselves of the American influence that have harmed their own interests.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily highlighted the complaints of teachers in private schools, noting that they have been complaining about poor wages but no one has done them justice so far. The majority of private schools in Jordan continue to deprive their teachers of salaries for the summer holiday and continue to pay them minimum wages, according to salary scales of their own making, without any regard to the teachers' basic rights, said Salah Abdul Samad. The writer said that private school teachers are normally exposed to psychological pressure by the school administration, which impose humiliating conditions on them, forcing them to accept whatever is being offered them. Such arbitrary attitude is being conducted at a time when the country is supposed to be living in an atmosphere of democracy and such practice is being exercised for the sole benefit of the private-school owners who stop at nothing in the way of ensuring their own selfish interests, said the writer. He urged the school owners and directors to deal with their teachers in a civilised and decent manner and to build strong relationship with them in conformity with the Jordanian society's norms and traditions.

Weekly Political Pulse

Only dialogue could lead to solving the region's problems

It is no accident that the Israeli prime minister is calling specifically for a summit with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to unblock the jam in the Syrian-Israeli bilateral peace talks. Pinning special hopes on a Syrian-Israeli summit does indeed suggest that Rabin is seriously contemplating even complete withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights but needs help.

It is axiomatic that Rabin's parliamentary strength is rather shaky and his mandate is quite limited in scope and time. He needs the support of his people to pull through an Israeli-Syrian deal comprising complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and he senses that the only effective way to sway his country behind such an arrangement is to break the psychological barrier dividing the peoples of the two sides.

In this context, Rabin appears to be right even though there is considerable risk to President Assad if any such proposed summit proves futile in the final analysis. Assad would be putting his entire political fortunes on the line, if and when he accepts to meet Rabin tete-a-tete. He must make sure that there is a great probability that the risk is worth taking. Perhaps that is essentially why Damascus is reluctant to accommodate Rabin on the summit idea.

To be sure, Syria is inching closer to the Israeli terms for peace between them, officially and publicly proclaiming its willingness to offer Israel full and complete peace in return for complete and

full Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Heights. It seems therefore that the substantive gap between the two countries on the terms and conditions of a peace treaty is not that insurmountable. Only a summit between the leaders of Syria and Israel would provide the conditions necessary to animate the agreement in principle and help Rabin sell the idea to his people.

But would Assad gamble and take the high risk of meeting Rabin before he is given sufficient guarantees that he will not return to his country empty handed? The Israeli government often refers to the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's dramatic visit to Israel and how it helped break the ice between the hitherto warring nations. There is no doubt that Sadat's trek to Israel to meet Israeli leaders and encounter the Israeli people did dismantle at least part of the wall that divided the Arab and Israeli peoples and set the political and psychological stage for future accommodations. Yet, it is also a well-known fact that Sadat's trip was not carried out in a vacuum and without earlier understandings and commitments. It would have been utter folly on the part of the late Egyptian president to make his pilgrimage of peace without knowing in advance the chances of reaping the fruits of his peace adventure.

It is just probable, therefore, that within the coming months, during the negotiations between the two parties, several intermediaries would try most feverishly to extricate clearer commitments

from Rabin's government in favour of complete Israeli withdrawal from Syrian territories. Since both Syria and Israel are closer than ever to an agreement on the full import between them, the scenario for giving a formal expression to such elevation almost sine qua non to any successful peace talks. The only issue that remains is when and lift the level of the talks. Much more preparatory work be done before determining when and where this necessary step can be taken. Time is short; the Labour-led government in Israel is indeed vulnerable. Lifetime limited. Should it fall and become replaced by a party neither the Israelis nor the Arabs would be the idea of summitry, much less provided with a real up to pull it through. This is a fact that both sides of the reckoning with seriously and responsibly. Taking bold to promote peace in the Middle East may not be a luxury a backdrop. Taking calculated risks for this purpose would be defensible and justifiable.

In due course, the same elevation of the level negotiations would be necessary for the rest of the tracks. The mechanics and nature of Israeli politics are such elevation almost sine qua non to any successful peace talks. The only issue that remains is when and lift the level of the talks. Much more preparatory work be done before determining when and where this necessary step can be taken. Time is short; the Labour-led government in Israel is indeed vulnerable. Lifetime limited. Should it fall and become replaced by a party neither the Israelis nor the Arabs would be the idea of summitry, much less provided with a real up to pull it through. This is a fact that both sides of the reckoning with seriously and responsibly. Taking bold to promote peace in the Middle East may not be a luxury a backdrop. Taking calculated risks for this purpose would be defensible and justifiable.

Amnesty deplores human rights violations in some Arab countries

Following are London-based Amnesty International reports on torture and extra judicial executions, political prisoners and secret detention centres in Kuwait, Morocco and Libya.

Kuwait

Cases of "disappearance," incommunicado detention, torture and extrajudicial execution under Martial Law

Following the chaos left behind after the withdrawal of Iraqi forces on Feb. 26, 1991, the Amir of Kuwait declared a three-month period of Martial Law. Kuwaiti government forces and armed civilians immediately carried out a campaign of arbitrary arrests, torture and extrajudicial killings of individuals suspected of collaborating with Iraqi forces. Many of those detained subsequently "disappeared" and their fate and whereabouts remain unknown. This continued throughout the Martial Law period, which was extended until June 26, 1991, and gradually died out in the months that followed.

The vast majority of victims were non-Kuwaitis, including Iraqis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Sudanese, Yemenis, Somalis and stateless Bidun — many of whom had been living and working in Kuwait for generations prior to the Iraqi invasion. The Kuwaiti authorities have stated that nationality played no part in the arrests, but out of an official list of 546 detainees obtained by Amnesty International in May 1991, only 12 detainees were Kuwaiti. Since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces many non-Kuwaitis have been deported or forced to leave through economic and social pressures applied to them, and few who left during the occupation have been allowed to return. The deadline for non-Kuwaitis to renew their residency reportedly expired on May 31, 1992, after which fines were reportedly imposed for overstayers and the pressure to leave increased.

The Kuwaiti authorities have made little effort to investigate human rights violations committed since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces, and many individuals who "disappeared" in Kuwait remain unaccounted for. As the only way of obtaining information about their cases is to contact individual families, many of whom have now dispersed, the true number may never be known. Amnesty International is calling for investigations into 62 cases about which it has gathered information, but fears that many of them may have died under torture or been extrajudicially executed, while others may have been expelled from Kuwait or possibly still be held in incommunicado detention pending trial by the State Security Court. Anyone found responsible for such human rights violations should immediately be brought to justice and the victims or their families should be compensated.

Unresolved "disappearance" cases

In March and April 1991 an Amnesty International delegation visiting Kuwait examined the burial records at Al Rigga cemetery, which showed that scores of unidentified bodies had been buried since Feb. 26, 1991 — the victims were simply listed as "unknown." Unless the Kuwaiti government undertakes a full investigation of all such cases, including the exhumation of mass graves, the fate of many "disappearance" victims may never be known.

Families who attempted to make inquiries with the author-

ities after their relatives "disappeared" have alleged that they were often given the "run-around" from one detention centre or prison to another, and that beatings, threats of arrest or deportation and other forms of intimidation were routinely used to discourage them. One woman who appealed to the authorities about her "disappeared" relative told Amnesty International that several men in civilian clothes came to her home, beat her and then locked her inside the house. Several eyewitnesses have told Amnesty International that they saw their relatives being severely beaten, kicked, or otherwise ill-treated while being taken into custody, and expressed fears that they were being tortured. Others feared that relatives who were suffering from severe medical problems may have been denied medication after their "disappearance."

Libya

Political detention

Hundreds of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, are held in detention centres in Libya for reasons or under conditions which are contrary to international human rights standards. In June 1991, Amnesty International published a report outlining the organisation's concerns following legal reforms and an amnesty announced in March 1988. The report put forward the cases of 427 political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience.

In recent years Amnesty International has repeatedly requested information about the legal status of political prisoners in Libya, most of whom are believed to be held without charge or trial, or sentenced after trials which fell short of international standards. Amnesty International has also consistently expressed its grave concern to the Libyan authorities that arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention, which render detainees vulnerable to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, continue unaltered by any change in legislation or rigorous preventative measures. Repeated requests for specific information on the fate of political prisoners in detention, as well as on reports of torture and ill-treatment, have remained unanswered by the Libyan government.

Since the publication of the June 1991 report Amnesty International has received the names and details of a further 127 political prisoners, including possible prisoners of conscience. This brings the number of political prisoners known to Amnesty International to at least 554.

At least 14 of these prisoners are currently believed to be held in Abu Salim detention centre on the outskirts of Tripoli; 15 other political prisoners and possible prisoners of conscience, detained after the March 1988 amnesty, are believed to be denied any access to the outside world. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) since May 1970. In May 1989 Libya became a state party to the first Optional Protocol of the ICCPR and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It has also been a state party to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights since July 19, 1985 and was the first state party to submit a biennial report on measures it had taken to implement that treaty.

Arrests before March 1988
During the 1970s and up to

March 1988, political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Libya were frequently subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention without trial and torture. They were routinely sentenced to lengthy prison terms after unfair trials. Some prisoners were sentenced to death after such trials and executed. In March 1988 Colonel Muammar Qadhafi officially released 400 political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, under an amnesty. Many of these prisoners were serving long prison sentences and some had been sentenced to death after trials which failed to meet international standards for fair trial. Others had been held without trial for many years, detained beyond the expiry of their sentences, or despite trial and acquittal. In speeches he made at that time, Colonel Qadhafi publicly recognised that people had been wrongly imprisoned and executed. He also stated that the amnesty was not to be extended to some 100 political prisoners, whom he accused of being "agents of foreign powers."

In June 1991, Amnesty International published the names of 30 political prisoners chosen as a representative sample from a list of 75 prisoners, then known to the organisation, who did not benefit from the March 1988 amnesty. Amnesty International now has the names of 50 other political prisoners and possible prisoners of conscience from this group.

Arrests after March 1988

Amnesty International has compiled a further list of 77 political prisoners arrested after the 1988 amnesty in Libya and those details have not hitherto been published by the organisation. Twelve prisoners among them were arrested as part of a general crackdown on alleged sympathisers and members of Islamic groups in Libya. In the period between December 1988 and April 1990, hundreds of alleged members or sympathisers of Islamic groups were arrested in various towns and cities, particularly in and around Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Tripoli and Derna. Their arrests followed at least two demonstrations and several violent clashes between opponents of the authorities and members of the security forces and the Revolutionary Committees. The two demonstrations had reportedly taken place in Tripoli. One was said to have been held on Jan. 9, 1989, apparently by religious students at Al Fateh University in Tripoli. The other was reportedly held during the second half of January, apparently in protest against the authorities' decision to concede a World Cup qualifying football match to Algeria. During the second demonstration security forces reportedly fired into the crowds and at least one demonstrator was killed.

Several other clashes also occurred in major cities in Libya. On Jan. 14, 1989 a clash reportedly occurred in Ajdabiya between members of the security forces and an armed religious group reportedly known as Al Jihad. Fighting also reportedly broke out on two separate occasions between security forces and opponents of the authorities were reported to have occurred in January in Benghazi shortly after the Ajdabiya incident. Another clash reportedly took place in April that year between members of the Revolutionary Committee and students at Gar Yunis University in Benghazi, following demonstrations by the students.

Most of those arrested were apparently not involved in any violent activities. They are said to have been arrested because they were suspected of being active

political opponents or supporters of the opposition, particularly religious groups. The religious groups are said to include the Muslim Brotherhood movement, Al Jihad, Al Da'wa, the Preaching Group, the Islamic Liberation Party and followers of the Wahabiyya, an Islamic Sunni doctrine founded in Saudi Arabia in the 18th century. The arrests were reportedly carried out by various authorities including members of the Revolutionary Committees, apparently without warrants. They have since been held incommunicado, possibly without charge or trial, and their whereabouts remain unknown.

Amnesty International concerns

Amnesty International is concerned about the detention of over 550 political prisoners in Libya, among them at least five prisoners of conscience detained since 1973. The organisation has repeatedly requested specific information about the status, whereabouts, and legal basis for the detention of such prisoners, but has received no response from the authorities to date. Hundreds of political prisoners, currently held have been denied the right to fair trial and many among them may be prisoners of conscience.

Prisoners of conscience

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that a number of the prisoners detained may be prisoners of conscience held solely for the non-violent expression of their political or other conscientiously-held beliefs. As such, their detention is contrary to international human rights standards, particularly Articles 19 and 22 of the ICCPR. Article 19, for example states that "(e)veryone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference." Amnesty International thus urges the government to release immediately and unconditionally all prisoners currently held for peacefully expressing their beliefs.

Unfair trial or detention without trial

Amnesty International is also concerned that some political prisoners have been convicted after trials which fell short of internationally recognised standards for fair trial, particularly Articles 9(3) and 14 of the ICCPR. Amnesty International urges the government to set up a judicial review into the cases of all political prisoners who were convicted in unfair trials with the aim of releasing them or providing them with a fair trial in accordance with Article 14 of the ICCPR. In addition, many political prisoners currently held in detention are believed to be detained without charge or trial. Amnesty International urges the government to release them unless they are to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial in accordance with international standards.

Torture or ill-treatment

Amnesty International is also gravely concerned that several prisoners are alleged to have been tortured or ill-treated during their detention. Amnesty International opposes the torture of all prisoners without reservation. There are no circumstances under which these abuses are acceptable or permissible. Articles 4, 12 and 13 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Libya is a state party, clearly express the fact that all methods of torture

violate the rule of law. Amnesty International thus urges that all reports of torture be investigated and, if confirmed, that those found responsible be brought to justice, and that the victims receive compensation as per Article 14 of the Convention.

A further matter which is also of grave concern to Amnesty International is that all the prisoners detained after March 1988 are reportedly being held in incommunicado detention. The organisation urges the Libyan authorities to ensure that all arrested persons have prompt access to families, lawyers and medical attention in accordance with international standards, particularly the United Nations Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Morocco

Tazmamert: Official silence and impunity

One year after the release of the 30 surviving prisoners from the secret detention centre at Tazmamert, the Moroccan government remains silent about the 33 prisoners who died in detention there. More than half of the prisoners held in total isolation in Tazmamert died from illnesses resulting from inadequate nutrition and hygiene, lack of medical care and neglect; most of them died years after their sentences had expired.

Those who survived the 18 years in inhuman conditions of detention were released between September and December 1991. They are all in extremely poor physical condition: a virtually total lack of light, no provision for any medical care or exercise and a grossly inadequate diet meant that they have suffered irreparable physical damage. Since their release they have been experiencing great difficulties in readjusting to everyday life after having been completely cut off from the outside world and from each other 18 years. They remain under close surveillance by the Moroccan authorities and continue to be deprived of the medical care necessary to treat their illnesses from the years of detention in Tazmamert.

Amnesty International welcomes the fact that all the surviving detainees have been released from Tazmamert and given access to their families. However, the organisation remains gravely concerned both that no independent inquiry has been held into the gross ill-treatment of prisoners in Tazmamert and that those released continue to be subjected to restrictions on their freedom of movement and communications. Amnesty International has repeatedly urged the government to initiate an independent inquiry to determine the circumstances and causes of the deaths of the 33 prisoners who died in Tazmamert, to inform their families fully of the causes and circumstances of death and to provide compensation.

Background

On the night of Aug. 7, 1973, 58 military prisoners were taken from Kenitra Central Prison to Tazmamert, in the foothills of the Atlas mountains. There a secret detention centre comprising 29 individual cells, had been specially constructed for them beside a military barracks.

Those initially taken to Tazmamert were all members of the Moroccan armed forces who had been convicted of participating in

coup attempts against King Hassan II in 1971 and 1972. In the first trial, 1972, known as "the Trial," 1,081 defendants were tried for allegedly plotting an attack on the royal palace on July 10, 1971. Seventy-four were sentenced to prison terms ranging from one year to life imprisonment. One was sentenced to death. The rest were acquitted. In the second trial in November 1972, known as the "Kenitra 220" defendants were attempting to kill King Hassan II by firing at his aircraft on March 26, 1972 as he was returning from France. They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three years to life imprisonment, and the rest were acquitted.

Unconvicted defendants both groups were in Kenitra Military Prison in Kenitra Central Prison sentenced to one or more prison terms were: expiry of their sentences, some remained, some were sentenced to three years, some were sentenced to life imprisonment. When their families for the next weeks were simply told that they were no longer to look for them any more only one year later, when their letter was sent that the families found and in what conditions they were being held.

The cells, which were three metres by two metres or light, only holes in the wall for ventilation, there was no stone platform serving the prison was disgusting hot in summer and cold in winter and the who had been taken out any of their possessions extra clothes at the summer, suffered the winter cold. They were given a plastic five litres of water allowed each day and each. For 18 years, they were in the cells, they never saw, they were fed the minimum necessary to survive and never received medical care. Only one Lieutenant Mbarok, who was married to a United States citizen, was given a treatment after the U.S. government intervened with the Moroccan authorities, allowed, during the day, to go to the courtyard during the day.

The others remained in total darkness for 18 years after 1973 a small of other "disappeared" prisoners brought to Tazmamert, died of some of those. A palace guard, Seddik, was brought there and died there six years. Three brothers, Bayezid and Ali Boureguaj, from Morocco, of French nationality, who had been in 1973 and held in secret ever since, were brought to Tazmamert in 1981. For 10 years, from 1981 to 1991, 15 of unknown names apparently from sub-Saharan Africa were held in the prison. They spoke no and no one knew why they were there. One was a Catholic, another was a Muslim. One Tazmamert and his body was taken away.

Features

World's rural poor face hard times from loss of land, population explosion

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The world's rural poor are threatened by a loss of land, a population explosion and government policies, a U.N. study says. The report identifies several factors that will threaten the rural poor in the next century. The world's population, which is expected to grow to 8.5 billion by the year 2000, is expected to be 7.1 billion in 1992. The report says that the number of people with

no land is increasing by 3 per cent to 5 per cent annually, especially in Asia and parts of Africa and Latin America. In addition, arable land is being lost to erosion and encroaching desert, mostly due to mismanagement, at a rate of 27 million hectares a year. The number of rural households headed by women alone — now over 75 million — is increasing rapidly. "Such women face a triple burden: They share all the hardships and constraints that poor rural men do. As women, they face discrimination, bias and neglect and they are forced to manage homes and farms alone, unlike men," the report says. The report finds that neither "trickle-down economics" — the

theory that overall economic growth will also help the poor — nor welfare-type programmes make much difference, because most governments have other policies that discriminate against the rural poor. Credit, social services and technology are all less available to the rural poor than to their urban counterparts. Rural farmers are particularly hurt by crop prices kept low by food prices artificially lowered in cities. "The poor are not idle," said Idress Jazairy, the president of the U.N. International Fund for Agricultural Development. "They are poor farmers, poor herders and poor fishermen, but their incomes are gained from their work. The answer to poverty lies in creating the conditions for them to earn more from their work."

The fund surveyed 114 underdeveloped nations for the report, a first for the United Nations. The study measured the welfare of nations based on the amount of food per population, income level and the gap between rich and poor, literacy, primary school enrollment, infant mortality, and access to such needs as safe water, health care and sanitation. About 633 million of the world's impoverished live in Asia, 204 million in Africa, 27 million in the Near East and North Africa, and 76 million in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report says the five countries with the most miserable rural poor are Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mauritania and Sudan. The five best-off developing nations are Cyprus, Malta, South Korea, Barbados and Mauritius, it says. The countries cited with increases in the numbers of poor were: — Brazil, up from 66 per cent to 73 per cent of total population between 1965-1988. — Sri Lanka, up from 13 per cent to 46 per cent. — Zambia, from 52 per cent to 82 per cent. — Mali, from 48 per cent to 60 per cent. — Kenya, from 40 per cent to 55 per cent. The International Fund for Agricultural Development is a Rome-based U.N. agency organised in 1978 to fight chronic rural hunger and underdevelopment.

King demands

Continued from page 1

Security Council intervention. King Hussein expressed appreciation of the committee's efforts to defend and ensure the Palestinian people's national rights and the principles of right, justice and international legitimacy.

attain a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and an end to the Palestine problem in accordance with international legitimacy and in a manner that would achieve the aspirations of the Palestinian people to self-determination and freedom and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, said the King. King Hussein expressed appreciation of the committee's efforts to defend and ensure the Palestinian people's national rights and the principles of right, justice and international legitimacy.

OIC

Continued from page 1

Security Council intervention. King Hussein expressed appreciation of the committee's efforts to defend and ensure the Palestinian people's national rights and the principles of right, justice and international legitimacy.

nisation (PLO) which is an OIC member. "The OIC reaffirms its support and backing for the struggle of the Palestinian people. It expresses pride in, and solidarity with, their blessed intifadah," the statement said.

Germany

Continued from page 1

U.N.-mandated peacekeeping missions but stood firm against government pressure to join U.N.-led missions. "I hear it all over the world," Kohl said. "It is time for Germany to join the world community — to join the world Council."

We've got other problems which take priority," he said. "We are members of the United Nations, (but) an organisation cannot have members who only claim their rights and who head for the door saying 'this is not my concern' when it comes to duties," he said.

AE hopeful

Continued from page 1

UAE is embroiled in a conflict with Iran over three strategically located Gulf islands and Greater and Lesser Zanzibar — sovereignty over which is claimed by both countries. Haidan told Al Hayat he expects U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali and an envoy to the region to probe into that dispute. He said the UAE sent a letter to the U.N. chief last week, after the U.N. chief met with the U.N. mission at the United States. He did not elaborate. Haidan said the UAE accepted the ruling of the High Court of Justice or the Security Council on this matter.

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Nantes alone at the top after Paris slump

PARIS (Agencies) — A draw was sufficient for unfashionable Nantes to take over sole leadership of the French First Division as ambitious Paris St. Germain fell 3-1 to a revitalized Monaco.

After a disappointing start to the season, Monaco showed glimpses of their old form as they cruised to a comfortable victory before their home fans.

Although managing only a 2-2 draw at home to newly-promoted Strasbourg, Nantes now enjoy a one-point lead over the Paris club.

Another unimpressive performance by champions Marseille saw them make hard work of beating Caen 2-1 despite the visitors having goalkeeper Philippe Moutanier sent off after only 25 minutes.

Marseille's hopes of rediscovering last season's form received another setback when German striker Rudi Voeller suffered a dislocated shoulder.

Club officials said he could be out of action for four weeks.

In Monaco, Paris St Germain opened the scoring through an own goal by defender Franck Dumas after 20 minutes but German striker Jurgen Klinsmann put Monaco back on level terms just one minute later.

Brazilian Luis Henrique gave Monaco the lead in the 29th minute and Youri Djorkaeff put the issue beyond doubt seven minutes from time.

Monaco remain in fourth place behind Auxerre who gained a hard-fought 2-1 victory over bottom-placed Toulon with a last-minute winner from Lillian Laslandes.

Nantes led 2-1 at halftime through goals by Nicolas Ouedec and Christian Karembeu after Strasbourg had briefly taken the lead through a penalty by defender Frank Leboucq.

Strasbourg made it 2-2 with a second-half goal by Australian

striker Frank Farina. Once-great Bordeaux, back in the 20-strong league after spending last season in the second division following demotion for financial irregularities, crushed unfashionable Valenciennes 3-0 stay in sixth place one point behind Marseille.

Eindhoven, Atletico Madrid trounce opponents

Brazilian Marksman Romario, who struck twice to the European Cup last Wednesday, scored two more goals Saturday and led leaders PSV Eindhoven to a 3-0 win at GSV Alheim Eagles Davenport in the Dutch Soccer First Division.

But Romario, embroiled in a long-running feud with PSV coach Hans Westerhof, says he will quit the club at the end of the season.

"I want to leave," he said this week. "First we win the (European) Champions' Cup and the national Championship. After that I'm gone."

PSV were without four key players, including suspended Adri Van Tiggelen who was sent off last weekend in domestic competition and Wednesday in the European Cup.

Fellow international defender Berry Van Aerle has had an operation on a groin injury and will be out for several months.

Meanwhile two goals by Mexican Luis Garcia helped Atletico Madrid to a valuable 3-1 victory Saturday and brought an end to Sevilla's lucky streak of not having lost a game since buying Argentine ace Diego Maradona.

The win puts Atletico in first place with 10 points — one ahead of Barcelona — in the 20 team division pending other 12th-round games. Sevilla meanwhile stayed No. 5 with 15 points.

The game had been billed as a battle of the giants with Maradona expected to face off against former Barcelona colleague, Ger-



Monaco's Juergen Klinsmann

man sweeper Bernd Schuster.

Karlsruhe continue surprises

Midfielder Rainer Schusterle dounced a shot through the hands of Bayern goalkeeper Raimond Aomann in the 10th minute giving Karlsruhe a 3-3 draw with the Bundesliga leader and adding to its reputation as the surprise team of the year.

The tie move moved Karlsruhe into fourth place and tightened

the league standings, enabling Eintracht Frankfurt to pull within two points of Bayern after edging Bayer Uerdingen 1-0, while the other contending teams also kept pace with victories.

Werder Bremen remained in third, just behind Frankfurt on goal differential, with a 2-0 victory over FC Saarbrücken Friday night. Bayer Leverkusen beat Wattenscheid 3-1 to remain in fifth with 18 points and Dynamo Dresden topped FC Schalke 1-0.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Al Orthodoxi face Al Ahli in U-22 basketball

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ahli play Al Hussein in Irbid while Al Orthodoxi face Al Ahli in Amman Monday in the first leg of second round matches in the U-22 basketball championship. Al Ahli beat Al Orthodoxi by a mere 2 points in the first round, but Al Orthodoxi seem well on their way to winning the title after they scored a big win of 74-51 over Al Ahli while Al Ahli lost to Al Ahli 71-39.

Al Ahli beat Al Qadissieh in Jordan Cup

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ahli Sunday beat Al Qadissieh 1-0 in the opening match of the semifinal round of the Jordan Cup soccer competition. Amer Muneb scored the match's only goal in the first half. The other two semifinalist teams, Al Wihdat and Al Faisali clash today at 3 p.m. at Al Hussein Youth City Stadium.

Becker beats Ivanisevic in charity match

ZAGREB (AP) — The world's fifth ranked Boris Becker, defeated the fourth-ranked Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), in a benefit match for the children victimized by war in Croatia. The tennis stars were expected to raise up to 100,000 for the Fund for Children War Victims, the charity's director Druzo Oresar told reporters. Ivanisevic, known for his outspoken support of his country during the 1991 war, said he was pleased with Becker's arrival. He said it proves "it is peaceful now in Croatia, that people live normally."

Norwich extend lead

LONDON (AP) — Premier league leader Norwich took a 17th minute lead through Dave Phillips, then went further ahead when Darro Deckford scored after 30 minutes. Ray Houghton narrowed the gap to 2-1 in the final seconds of the half, blasting in a strike from the edge of the penalty area which beat the Norwich goalkeeper, then in the first minute of the second half Garry Parker equalized for Villa. But Norwich again went ahead in the 40th minute through Daryl Sutch. The victory extended Norwich's lead to 5 points. Meanwhile Alan Shearer scored his first goal in seven games to give Blackburn a 17th minute lead against QPR before having to leave the field with a leg injury. The victory lifted Blackburn into second position ahead of Arsenal, which slipped to 3rd with its home loss to Manchester United.

Australia to face United States on grass court

MELBOURNE (AP) — Australia will face the United States in the first round of the 1993 Davis Cup tennis competition on a grass court at Kooyong from March 26-29. Tennis Australia announced Sunday. Kooyong, in suburban Melbourne, was the venue for the Australian Open until six years ago. The Tennis Australia Council choose Kooyong ahead of potential venues in four other states. Australian capital Neale Fraser said he preferred to play the United States on grass. Australia last played the United States in the 1990 final in St. Petersburg, Florida which the Americans won.

Japan's Tokai Teio wins Japan Cup

FUCHU, Japan (AP) — Tokai Teio of Japan, dashing down the outside over the final 100 final 100 metres, beat Australian Horse Naturalism by a neck Sunday and won the Japan Cup, one of the world's richest horse races.

Riding before a record crowd of more than 160,000 spectators in clear weather, 4-year-old colt Tokai Teio, the 1991 Japan Derby winner, finished the 2,400 metres on the Tokyo Race Course's turf track in 2 minutes, 24.6 seconds.

The victory was worth 169 million yen (\$1.36 million) from a total purse of 392 million yen (\$3.16 million).

"I was pleased to win the race, beating strong horses from around the world," said jockey Yukio Okada.

The 14-horse field for the 12th Japan Cup included two each from Australia, the United States and France and one from Britain. Naturalism, a 4-year-old colt

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright, Jr.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mercury goes direct after the Moon square Mercury and Pluto making your mind work overtime on original and progressive ideas that can make your life easier and pleasanter. No time for procrastination.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure to back up fellow associates in their endeavour to make tasks satisfactory while tonight an outside associate confuses you if you allow.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look for whatever little things you can do to make your appearance and activities more acceptable to others, tonight don't be fuzzy about some task.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put yourself in a family members' shoes when you are inclined to criticize and in the evening don't let a close companion's troubles get beneath your skin.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A communication can seem to be very critical unless time is taken to use right semantics and this avoids trouble, tonight keep calm at your home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Control the temptation to make some change where practical interests are concerned and tonight use special care to do nothing to upset a companion.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It would be very easy for you to make a mistake in a personal matter during the day so double check

your actions, tonight don't act in reference matters.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Back up, conditions complex as you are, they are said you can, tonight look for increase your chances.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) During daytime that requires a ride to take sides is while tonight your mind to show more kindness.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Being your career matters in your best interest tonight clarify what objectives are.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a d its best to wind up p tious and not to del cses while tonight is time to go out on th

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you're regarding, settling of requires a very tonight don't go off goose chase.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget that con one you regard as a p more propitious than efforts later in analy practical matters.

THE BETTER HALF

By H. H. HARRIS



"We're both trying so hard to be listeners, we hardly speak to each other anymore!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD by Henri Arnold and E

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EUQER

RAFIR

LEGBIT

PANNKI

Answer: STAIRS, FEAR, TIGHT, KIP

When a naive customer thinks he's going place he's sometimes really this.

Now arrange the circles left from the surprise answer, as gested by the above cartoon.

Answer: STAIRS, FEAR, TIGHT, KIP

Saturday's Jumbles: STAIRS, FEAR, TIGHT, KIP

Answer: What that friendly neighborhood shop had—TAKING WAYS

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Answers for

Saturday's Jumbles: STAIRS, FEAR, TIGHT, KIP

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WANTED

Expatriate couple looking for unfurnished flat/villa in Abdoun. Must have at least:

1. 3-4 bedrooms
2. 2 bathrooms (one en-suite)
3. Family room - cum - study
4. Maid's room with bathroom
5. Telephone.

We are willing to sign a 2-year lease with an option to renew for a third year.

Principals should please forward full details to:

Mr. Wise
P.O. Box 925286, Amman.
Or fax to 682047

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Furnished Apartment for rent

Shmisanani area, ground floor with private entrance. Garage & garden privilege. 2 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + sitting room + dining room + telephone.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
© 1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

STIFF PUNISHMENT FOR NO CRIME

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ J 5

♥ J 7 4

♦ A Q J 10 3

♣ Q 10 7 6 4 2

EAST

♠ Q 10 7 6 4 2

♥ 8 6 5 4 3 2

♦ A Q 10

♣ 5

SOUTH

♠ A K 8 3

♥ 7

♦ A K 10 8 3

♣ 5

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠

3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

Sometimes it seems the cards are playing an April Fool's joke on you.

You take a perfectly normal action and it becomes the direct cause of a disaster.

No one can fault East for over-calling one spade, no matter what the vulnerability. South brushed aside the interference and, once diamonds had been raised, drove to slam.

Not surprisingly, in view of the auction, West led a spade. The nine was covered by the jack and queen

and taken by the ace, and trumps were drawn in two rounds, ending in dummy. Declarer led spade and finessed the eight, cashed the ace of spades for a heart discard from the table, then ruffed a spade. Now the king of hearts was led to East's ace, and the poor defender was caught in an endplay.

A spade or heart return would allow declarer to discard a club from hand while ruffing on the board and a club return would eliminate declarer's loser in that suit. A stiff price to pay for bidding one spade, for without the overall West might have led some other suit and the slam would have failed by a trick.

Although this terrible result could have been avoided had East made a Lighter double of six diamonds, calling for a lead of dummy's first bid suit, that action wouldn't occur to us. To insist on an opening club salvo without knowing the location of the ace of clubs, or how many cards South has in the suit, could be very expensive, especially when the opponents redouble and then wrap up 12 tricks.

Maier earns first World Cup victory

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Mom has a gift to take back home to Melanie: A World Cup victory.

Ulrike Maier of Austria, twice a world champion, finally ended eight years of frustration by winning the season opening women's giant slalom.

And it was the first time Melanie wasn't around as a good luck charm.

Maier was three months pregnant when she won the Super Giant Slalom gold medal in the 1989 World Championships at Vail, Colorado, and she dedicated the title to her daughter to be. Melanie was bundled up in baby snow gear in 1991 when Maier repeated as Super G world champion at Saalbach, Austria.

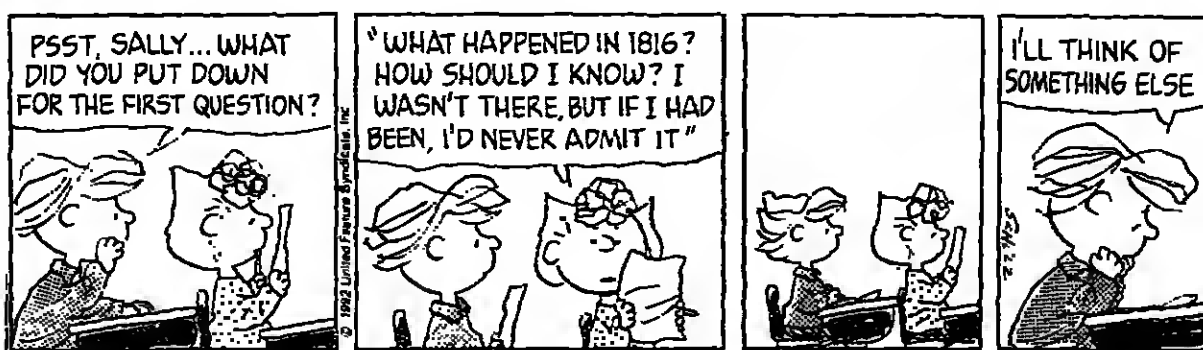
"Right now I miss her very much," Maier said after covering 2,560 metres of race course in 2

minutes, 21.07 seconds to edge Carole Merle of France and Vreni Schneider of Switzerland. "I left her at home because the United States is a long way to go and it would have been a difficult trip for her. I hope to bring her to America soon."

Had Melanie been in the finish area Saturday, she'd have seen Mom take advantage of a straight set course to place third in the morning heat, then use controlled aggression to win in the afternoon.

There had been times when Maier, for years among the tour's best and luckiest racers, wondered if the wish would ever be granted. Two times in her career, she had climbed a World Cup podium — six seconds and four thirds — but someone else always occupied the top step.

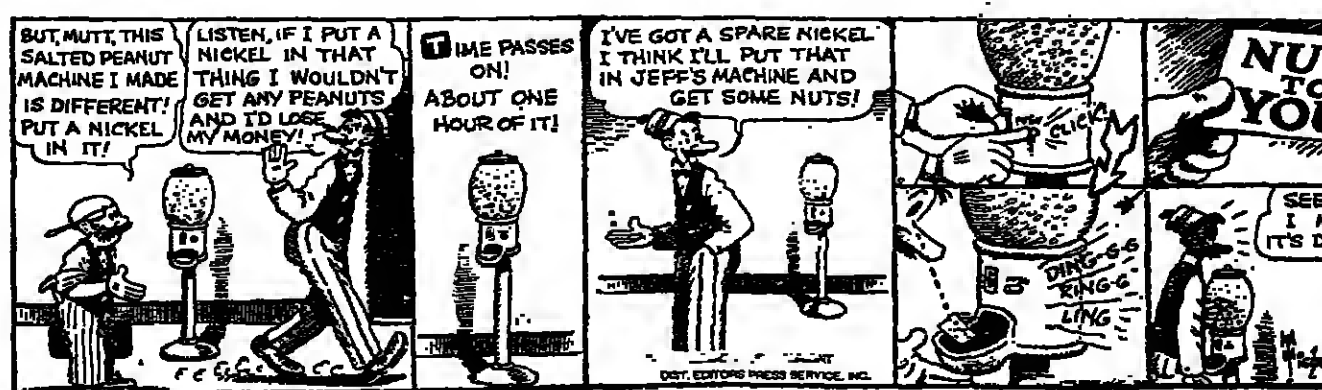
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



هكذا من الأصل

Shells, automatic fire hit Bosnia ahead of Serb-Croat truce

SARAJEVO (R) — Shelling and machinegun fire thudded through Sarajevo and other areas of Bosnia Sunday, just hours before a truce between Bosnia's Serbs and neighbouring Croatia was due to take effect.

Two people were killed and two others wounded overnight in Sarajevo's shell-battered old town, according to police in the besieged Bosnian capital.

In the new districts outside the city centre and western suburbs, gunmen kept up machinegun fire throughout the night and early morning. But the city centre was calm by midday.

The ceasefire, brokered by the head of the U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, Major-General Philippe Morillon, commits Croats and Bosnian Serbs to stop cross-border shelling.

Under the agreement, due to come into force from midnight Sunday, Zagreb will also withdraw troops who are Croatian nationals — as opposed to Bosnian Croats.

Gen. Morillon said Croatia had admitted for the first time that its regular army was deployed in parts of Bosnia — something it had vehemently denied until now.

The ceasefire discussions were not attended by either Bosnia's Croats or Muslims. Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said Saturday he had refused to take part in the discussions with Bosnian Serb officials.

But there were signs of further truce talks Sunday.

UNPROFOR spokesman Barry Frewer said Bosnian Serb military leader, Ratko Mladic, was due to meet a high-ranking official of the Bosnian Croatian Defence Council (HVO) at Sarajevo Airport.

Mr. Frewer said the meeting was part of an "ongoing process of ceasefire" — but gave no further details.

The Bosnian Serbs, Muslims and Croats signed a ceasefire accord on Nov. 10 covering the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina and which came into effect two days later.

Although widely violated, it has succeeded in damping the fighting in some places, and is still regarded by the United Nations as a basis for further progress.

On Sunday, however, there was little sign of any further lull in fighting.

Sarajevo Radio reported artillery attacks in the last 24 hours on the northern towns of Gradacac and Tesanj, and a night of gunfire in Glavice, on a main road north from Sarajevo.

Four people were reported wounded in the central Bosnian town of Tuzla, where British U.N. peacekeeping troops are trying to safeguard relief deliveries to embattled towns crisscrossed with refugees.

In eastern Bosnia, the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica celebrated the arrival of its first relief supplies in seven months after a much-delayed U.N. convoy finally got through.

The 20-truck convoy, organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) brought food, blankets and children's clothes Saturday to the 70,000 Muslims who have been living without electricity on potatoes, beans and bread.

"You have come to us when we had almost given up hope," a 55-year-old man told the U.N. as it unloaded its supplies.

Inexplicably, the convoy did not bring any medicine, a bitter disappointment for its 100-bed hospital, which has been operating without anaesthetics or painkillers for weeks.

Doctors said they had been forced to perform major operations without anaesthetics, mainly on wounded fighters — amputations of arms and legs, and 70 others for stomach, chest and head wounds.

UNHCR official Laurens Jolles said the agency hoped to make regular convoys to Srebrenica, but senior Bosnian Serb army officers refused to say if they would authorise more trips.

A further international effort to stop fighting in former Yugoslavia — an international naval blockade — has met with more



A Bosnian-Serb fighter aims his mortar towards a Croat position near Orasje, in Bosnia, to protect the corridor that links the Serbian-held part of Bosnia with Serbia (AFP photo)

success than some of the other initiatives.

A NATO spokesman said Sunday that a British destroyer had for the first time stopped a ship carrying goods out of the rump Yugoslavia in violation of a U.N. trade embargo, forcing it to divert to an Italian port.

Some 35 ships have been stopped and searched in the Adriatic by naval forces of NATO and the Western European Union (WEU) defence grouping since inspection procedures against suspected sanctions busters were tightened earlier this month.

Meanwhile a minister in the Yugoslav federal government of moderate Prime Minister Milan Panic resigned Saturday, saying his views "do not coincide with the interests of the people."

Minister Without Portfolio Radmila Milentijevic told Mr. Panic in her resignation letter: "I thought some of your statements were tactless and imprudent, but with time I established they were the basis of a policy with which, as a Serb and a patriot, I cannot agree."

Mr. Panic, a Yugoslav-born

American millionaire, survived a bid by hardliners to oust him earlier this month.

Together with federal President Dobrica Cosic, Mr. Panic is opposed to hardline Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic's policy of forging a greater Serbia with territory from republics that have seceded from Yugoslavia.

Hardliners portray Mr. Panic's efforts to restore peace and end Yugoslavia's international isolation through compromise and conciliation as a betrayal of the aims of the war.

In a separate development, an advance group of U.N. peacekeepers arrived in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, Saturday, part of international efforts to avoid a disastrous ethnic flare up that some fear could spread war throughout the Balkans.

The 14-member mission, headed by U.S. Brig. Gen. Do Pellinas, is to assess the feasibility and necessary size of a peacekeeping force in Macedonia and report back to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghabri.

Yeltsin wants party of his own

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin urged his supporters Sunday to set up a united political force to help him fight conservative resistance to his reforms.

The absence of any strong party structure has been a handicap to Mr. Yeltsin in recent months in projecting his authority through the country.

His supporters, weak and disorganised, may be hardpressed to rise to his call.

"Radical reforms need a strong social base...and an appropriate political structure, maybe a party, maybe a political movement," Mr. Yeltsin told 2,000 of his most devoted supporters, two days before a session of the country's supreme legislature.

"We need such a political force and I as president must be with it and part of it."

"Let us consider we are starting from today," Mr. Yeltsin added, triggering a storm of applause from representatives of some 30 fragmented groups offering their support.

Mr. Yeltsin has in the past refused to identify himself directly with any specific political par-

ty. The Liberal Democratic Russia grouping, which backed him to power at 1990 presidential elections, later split into rival factions, some even turning their back on Mr. Yeltsin.

Over recent months he has faced growing pressure from conservative forces demanding a slow-down in the pace of political and economic reforms aimed at moving Russia from communism to a free market democracy.

On Tuesday the conservative-dominated legislature, the Congress of Peoples Deputies, is expected to launch a challenge to Mr. Yeltsin's liberal political course.

Many Yeltsin supporters fear militant nationalists and former Communist deputies at the congress, which meets every six months, will use discontent over economic decline to push for the resignation of the president himself.

In an attempt to avert such a move, Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar has hammered out a compromise with the most powerful opposition force, the centre-right Civic Union group, dominated by former Soviet fac-

tory bosses. The Civic Union, which wants to replace an exhausting gallop towards a market economy with a gentle stroll, forced Mr. Gaidar to include some of its ideas in the government anti-crisis programme presented to the parliament last week.

On his part, Mr. Yeltsin has sacrificed two key radical aides, stirring suspicions among some supporters that he is preparing to dump the reformist government and replace them with more conservative industrialists.

Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin resigned and State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis has been moved into another job.

On Sunday, Mr. Yeltsin defended the compromise by saying that Conservative Russian Society was not ready to accept the initial powerful thrust of reforms.

"It has become clear now how deeply the old stereotypes of command economy are rooted in Russia," he said.

"Our main task is to maintain social peace and political balance. For the sake of this we should reject...radicalism."

Kohl: Rightist rabble will be punished

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Sunday the full force of the law will hit right-wing extremists blamed for 1,900 attacks on foreigners and Jewish memorials so far this year in unified Germany.

A top security official said 17 people had been killed and 452 injured in the firebombings and beatings of foreigners.

Mr. Kohl, speaking after police seized explosives, firearms and a hit-list of police officers in raids on a banned neo-Nazi group, said everything must be done so that foreigners and Jewish citizens did not fear for their safety in Germany.

"We must do everything to put the right-wing rabble...in their place and hit these culprits with the full force of the law," Mr. Kohl told German radio in an interview.

In Israel, the opposition Likud party called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the weekend to sever diplomatic relations with Germany if Bonn did not swiftly crack down on neo-Nazism.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, back from a visit to Israel, said Bonn's image as a stable democracy painstakingly built up after World War II was being destroyed by right-wing mobs.

"I can only say: The picture abroad (of Germany now) is de-

vastating," Mr. Kinkel told German radio.

Mr. Kohl, denouncing the neo-Nazi arson killing of three Turks in Moelln near Hamburg last week, said West Germany would not have prospered without its six million foreign workers.

"These foreign co-citizens are welcome here," he said. "We will also in the future be an open country, a country friendly to foreigners."

The chancellor, under fire for months for not moving faster to clamp down on raging xenophobia, was sharply criticised by his predecessor at the helm of the Christian Democrats (CDU) for turning Germany into a banana republic.

"I am waiting for clear language from the chancellor," former CDU Chairman Rainer Barzel told the Cologne Express daily. "Rather than speaking of brutal violence in Moelln he must say that murder is murder."

He said Mr. Kohl's government "must make it clear that the state has the monopoly on violence, that Germany is a stable democracy and no banana republic."

Eckart Werthebach, head of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, a government watchdog on political extremism, said he feared neo-Nazis would be inspired to launch more violent attacks after the Moelln mur-

ders.

He said in an interview with the Berlin paper B.Z. Am Sonntag that more than 1,900 attacks this year alone was an alarming figure, which included 621 arson attacks.

Police said a refugee home in the eastern German town of Eberswalde was partially destroyed by fire early Sunday in what could be the work of right-wing extremists. A security guard suffered smoke poisoning.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters said the banning of the neo-Nazi Nationalist Front (NF) and the crackdown on its members Friday was a success and had prevented planned attacks by rightists on foreigners in Germany.

An Interior Ministry spokesman, discussing further steps that might be taken to halt xenophobic violence in Germany, said rightist leaders might be banned from making public statements.

Leading extremists could be deprived of freedom of speech and the right to vote or run in elections under article 18 in Bonn's post-war constitution.

The article says, in part, "whoever abuses freedom of expression of opinion...in order to combat the free democratic basic order, shall forfeit these basic rights." A decision must be made by the federal constitutional court.

Venezuela holds 1,300 soldiers after coup bid

CARACAS (R) — The Venezuelan government said it had detained about 1,300 rebel troops after Friday's failed coup attempt during which at least 150 people died.

An air of uneasy calm hung over the capital Caracas Sunday, a day after government troops snuffed out the last pockets of rebel resistance. Most shops stayed closed, fearing a repeat of Friday's looting, but citizens started to reemerge onto the streets.

As life began returning to normal for most people after the putsch, the second in nine months in this oil-rich nation, Defence Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez warned the captured rebels, who included two admirals, that they faced a summary trial.

The told a news conference that despite the large numbers of insurgents, the majority of the country's armed forces respected the constitution and security forces were making strenuous efforts to weed out those involved.

The rebels struck before dawn Friday, capturing a key air base and a television station and attempted to bomb the presidential palace. They said they staged the coup attempt to protest at corruption and economic austerity policies which hurt the poor.

Bodies of civilian victims of the clashes continued to arrive at the

city morgue during the night. Officials said in the early hours of Sunday that they had received 101 bodies and added that more were expected from hospitals around the city.

News reports and official statements suggested that about 30 members of the armed forces died in the fighting, giving an overall total of at least 130 deaths.

President Carlos Andres Perez, the main target of the plotters, appealed to his countrymen to renounce violence and respect the law. "Violence is a perversion," he said Saturday at the funeral of seven loyalist troops killed in the fighting.

Mr. Perez spent most of Saturday under heavy guard inside the presidential palace, venturing out only for the funeral and to inspect briefly the damage caused by rebel attacks.

Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich said the government was seeking the extradition of another high-ranking officer, Air Force General Francisco Enrique Vizconti. Gen. Vizconti escaped with a group of 92 airmen to the Peruvian jungle city of Iquitos and sought political asylum.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it was studying the rebels' application but did not give any indication of the likely outcome.

Black gunmen kill whites in S. African unrest surge

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black gunmen burling hand grenades burst into a South African wine-tasting party and sprayed bullets at the 60 guests, killing four whites and wounding 17, police said Sunday.

The unprecedented, military-style attack by blacks on whites at a golf club in the white Cape Province settlement of King William's Town brought to 25 the number of people killed in major political and criminal attacks at the weekend.

"South Africa is shocked and horrified," government spokesman Dave Steward said in a statement about several of the incidents, which he described as caused by a mixture of political and criminal motives.

"These incidents represent a harsh and discordant note after the hope that has recently arisen in the wake of progress with (political reform) negotiations," the statement said.

In Durban's Umhlang township attackers shot dead three people, including a grandmother, in their beds Saturday night, then dragged the corpses out of the house and chopped them up with bush knives, relatives of the dead told local reporters.

Eighteen people have been killed in attacks around Johannesburg since Friday, police said.

"The scene was one of devastation...absolute carnage," Nationalist Party Member of Parliament Ray Radne, who attended the King William's Town wine tasting club function at the town's multi-racial golf club.

The African National Congress (ANC) condemned the attack and described it as an attempt by unidentified forces to foment violence in the border region encompassing the volatile black Ciskei homeland.

"It's a whole new level of violence here. It was a very professional kind of attack," said Eastern Cape provincial unrest monitor Louise Flanagan.

Police Commissioner Johan Van Der Merwe offered a reward of 50,000 rand (\$17,000) for information leading to the arrest of the five attackers, all of whom escaped in a vehicle.

Police said the five hurled grenades into the club's bar and dining areas and started firing rounds with South African R-4 or R-5 automatic rifles into guests, killing two white couples and wounding 17 people, mostly whites.

N. Korea cancels buses to stop protests over food shortage

TOKYO (R) — North Korea has closed down bus transport Saturday and Sunday to prevent protest gatherings following riots over worsening shortages of food and everyday goods, a leading opponent of the government said.

Park Gab-Dong, one of 20 former high North Korean government officials who plan to set up a government in exile, said Saturday night the shutdown was a sign of increasing desperation.

"The Kim Il-Sung government will fall within two years," he told Reuters. "Ordinary people there cannot eat two full meals a day, they do not have shoes and blankets."

The Japanese press has reported that riots over worsening food shortages have occurred in towns in the northern part of North Korea this year and were suppressed by the military. It has given no details or exact dates.

Mr. Park returned this month from Moscow, Alma Ata in Kazakhstan and Tashkent, where 11 of the 20 dissidents held a meeting of their group, the Korean People's Reunification

Salvation Front, which was set up in January.

The meeting issued a declaration calling for Mr. Kim to step down and warning him that, if he did not, he would face the same fate as Nicolae Ceausescu, the former Romanian ruler who was shot dead with his wife after a popular uprising.

The declaration described life for the 20 million people of North Korea as "hell and a prison" in the service of the defunct Kim and his son and heir Kim Jong-Il. Repression was worse than under Japanese colonial rule, with people starving to death.

It said that, while Mr. Kim senior amused himself with dozens of young women, his second wife, Kim Son-E, step-mother of Mr. Kim Jong-Il, had been imprisoned after fierce family quarrels.

The declaration said that delegates to a women's conference in March who heard a recorded speech she gave were in fact listening to a tape she was forced to make in prison.

DUBLIN (R) — Prime Minister Albert Reynolds has conceded that his days in power may be numbered after an historic election crowned Labour leader Dick Spring as the most popular politician in Ireland.

After a poll that shattered the mould in Irish politics, Mr. Spring is now seen as the man most likely to succeed in a more modern and liberal Ireland thirsting for change.

Ireland is headed into a lengthy poker game between political leaders bidding to form a government with a "rainbow coalition" of opposition parties.

After facing several ministers at a subdued Saturday cabinet meeting, Mr. Reynolds said: "At this stage, the political reality is that it is for others to look at forming a new government."

When parliament returns on Dec. 14 to pick a new leader, Mr. Reynolds could, after just nine months in power, end up as the shortest-lived premier in Ireland's 70-year history.

The knives are already out for Mr. Reynolds in his own party and its deputies may well favour a chance to regroup in opposition while the "rainbow coalition" tackles a whole host of problems. Ireland, with one in five out of

work, now has its highest unemployment rate ever. The economy is mired in recession and the government is fighting what dealers see as a desperate rear-guard action to stave off devaluation of the Irish punt in the current European currency turmoil.

A former rugby international, Mr. Spring finally broke the stranglehold on power that has held since the 1920's by Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, the party that founded the state.

In 1990 Mr. Spring engineered Mary Robinson's surprise victory in presidential elections, and he leads 33 deputies into the new 166-seat Dail (parliament), twice the party's previous tally.

"He is the man who identified the changing Ireland, who championed Mary Robinson and who best reflects the mood of a new generation of Irish voters," the Sunday Times said.

Among those who swept in on the Spring tide was South African-born psychiatrist Moosaajee Bhamjee who won a country seat for Labour.

He had urged voters to "put an Indian in among the cowboys." Mr. Spring is seeking the premiership in any "rainbow coalition" but Fine Gael leader John Bruton, whose party won 45

seats, insists that he should be the leader. Much horse-trading will have to be done now the electoral race is over.

The "rainbow coalition" received support from an unlikely quarter at the weekend.

The Northern Ireland peace talks, aimed at ending one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts, ended in failure as the Irish election campaign began this month.

Now Peter Robinson, a leading Protestant unionist deputy in Belfast, said a "rainbow coalition" that indicated a willingness for change could expect every encouragement from his Democratic Unionist Party.

Four days after the election, the final tally of seats was still not complete. After a legal row over procedure in one Dublin constituency, the latest recount there was adjourned until Sunday.

With that one final declaration still to come, the state of the parties was Fianna Fail with 67, Fine Gael 45, Labour 33, Progressive Democrats 10, Democratic Left 4, Greens 1 and others five.

Meanwhile Ireland's rejection of proposals to allow abortion when a mother's life is at risk has paradoxically paved the way for

the first legal abortions in the Roman Catholic country.

In a result as bizarre and confusing as the debate that preceded it, both pro- and anti-abortion campaigners claimed victory when the electorate voted "no" by a 2-1 majority in a referendum on a relaxation of Ireland's 1983 blanket ban on terminations.

On the face of it, Ireland's 2.5 million voters appeared united last week in their abhorrence of abortion whatever the circumstances.

In fact most were protesting that the measure was too rigid in a society where abortion may be out of sight but is far from being out of mind.

The result of two other referendum questions means they will be able to go abroad without breaking the law and information about facilities overseas will be freely available in Ireland.

Whatever the make-up of the coalition resulting from Wednesday's general election, politicians have pledged to introduce legislation taking into account circumstances such as rape, incest and the risk of suicide as grounds for abortion.

The referendum was supposed

to clear up the legal vacuum left by a Supreme Court ruling in March allowing a suicidal teenage rape victim to have her pregnancy terminated.

The main question on the paper ruled out either rape or suicide as viable grounds.

Anti-abortion groups claimed success in defeating plans they feared would open the floodgates to abortion on demand.

Furious at the result being interpreted as a vote in favour of abortion, they pledged to press for another, simpler referendum asking people whether they accept or reject abortion.

Their appeal looks doomed to fall on deaf ears.

Some constitutional experts said the referendum result had in effect sanctioned abortion in Ireland under circumstances covered by the Supreme Court ruling.

Others said legislation would have to be drawn up to put the ruling into effect and to accommodate the views of doctors and nurses likely to object to performing abortions.

What is clear is that there has been a sea-change in Irish society since a 1983 referendum enshrined the rigid ban on abortion.

Wedding-ew brings house — literally

HAMBURG (R) — The floor collapsed, high wedding-ew brought down a house in this north German city, seriously injuring 39 people, seriously, police said, most of whom were women and children.

Police said a refugee home in the eastern German town of Eberswalde was partially destroyed by fire early Sunday in what could be the work of right-wing extremists. A security guard suffered smoke poisoning.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters said the banning of the neo-Nazi Nationalist Front (NF) and the crackdown on its members Friday was a success and had prevented planned attacks by rightists on foreigners in Germany.

An Interior Ministry spokesman, discussing further steps that might be taken to halt xenophobic violence in Germany, said rightist leaders might be banned from making public statements.

Leading extremists could be deprived of freedom of speech and the right to vote or run in elections under article 18 in Bonn's post-war constitution.

The article says, in part, "whoever abuses freedom of expression of opinion...in order to combat the free democratic basic order, shall forfeit these basic rights." A decision must be made by the federal constitutional court.

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